

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 04713 111941Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-03 NRC-05 ERDA-05 /027 W
----- 005022

R 111805Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5466

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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BUENOS AIRES FOR ROBERT WILCOX

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, PE

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTOR, PERU

REF: STATE 122040

1. ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS OF THE PERUVIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE, THE GOP HAS CONTRACTED WITH THE FRENCH FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTOR. THE DECISION WHETHER TO BUY A FRENCH REACTOR OR GENERAL ATOMIC'S TRIGA WILL BE MADE WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

2. THE SHELL GENERAL MANAGER IN PERU IS NOW ACTING AS THE GENERAL ATOMIC REPRESENTATIVE. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE RECENT GULF EXPROPRIATION WILL REPRESENT A NEGATIVE FACTOR IN PERU'S SELECTION OF A RESEARCH REACTOR.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THE SHELL MANAGER'S ASSESSMENT MAY BE CORRECT, WE ARE NO LONGER OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE GOP PURCHASING THE TRIGA FROM GENERAL ATOMIC. THE FRENCH APPARENTLY HAVE OFFERED 100 PERCENT FINANCING FOR THEIR REACTOR, IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING AN EXTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH WOULD INCLUDE FRENCH EXPERTS VISITING PERU AND PERUVIAN TECHNICIANS RECEIVING TRAINING IN FRANCE. BOTH THE FINANCING AND TRAINING OF PERSONNEL ARE EXTREMELY
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IMPORTANT TO THE GOP, AND U.S. INABILITY TO OFFER

SIMILAR TERMS WILL HURT US WHEN THE GOP'S DECISION IS
MADE. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE USDOC MEPD ASSESSMENT OF
POSSIBILITY OF MEETING FRENCH COMPETITION WITH HELP OF EXPORT
IMPORT BANK AND TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS ON PART OF ERDA
AND GENERAL ATOMIC.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIMA04713
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750204-0287
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750661/aaaacdwy.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 122040
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTOR, PERU
TAGS: BEXP, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006